

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Notice of Non-Responsive Communication dated September 15, 2005, which has a reply period set to expire October 15, 2005.

Non-Responsive Communication

The Office Action states that the amendment filed on June 16, 2005 is non-responsive "because the newly added claims 26-32 disclose a new inventive concept different from the one previously submitted in claims 1-11." Applicants respectfully submit that this is an improper characterization of cancelled Claims 1-11 and/or Claims 26-32.

Cancelled Claim 1 originally recited:

A **method of design** comprising the steps of:
agreeing to a **contract defining a trigger**;
providing **computer programs to aid in the design**
of an integrated circuit; and
receiving a **payment upon satisfaction of said**
trigger. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 26 recites:

A method for using a computer running a computer-aided-design (CAD) tool to **enforce a usage contract** for the CAD tool, the method comprising:
entering a **trigger condition from the usage contract** into the computer; and
generating a **payment request when** a data file generated by the CAD tool **satisfies the trigger condition**. (Emphasis added.)

Applicants respectfully point out that the aspects of "running a computer-aided-design (CAD) tool", "a trigger condition from the usage contract", and "generating a payment request when ... the trigger condition [is satisfied]" as recited by Claim 26 are all broadly covered by the specific language of cancelled Claim 1 (i.e., Claim 1 recited "contract defining a trigger", "computer programs to aid in the design", and "payment upon satisfaction

of said trigger".) Because Claim 26 focuses on "[a] method for using a computer running a computer-aided-design (CAD) tool", the scope of Claim 26 may be construed as being somewhat narrower than the scope of cancelled Claim 1 (which covered the full "method of design" process), but Claim 26 clearly lies at least within that scope, and therefore does not disclose "a new inventive concept different from the one previously submitted in claims 1-11" as stated by the Office Action.

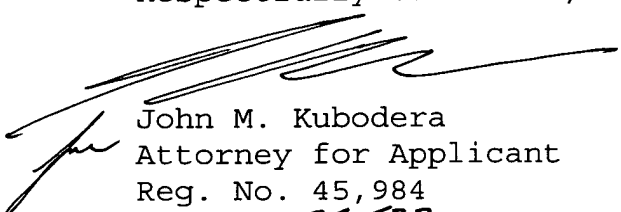
CONCLUSION

Claims 26-32 are pending in the present Application.
Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, please telephone the
undersigned at 408-451-5903 to expedite prosecution of this
case.

Respectfully submitted,

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